

Natick needs you

1 message

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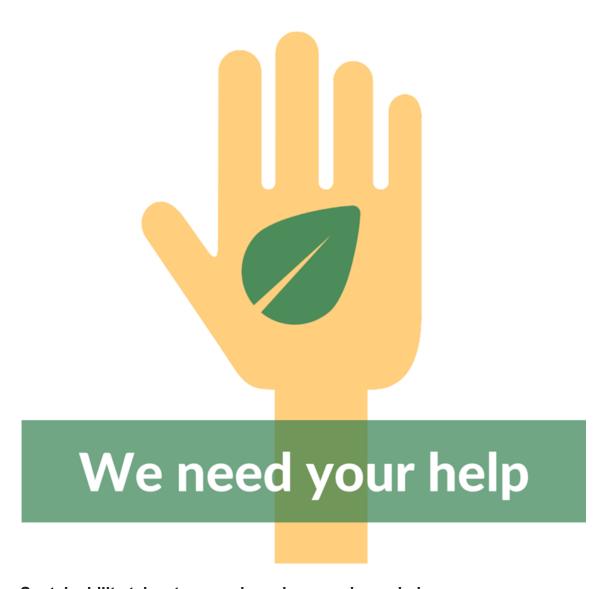
Mon, Aug 29, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Natick is creating a Sustainable Committee. Will you join it?

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Sustainable Matick

August 2016 Newsletter



Sustainability takes teamwork, and we need your help.

Creating a sustainable future is no easy task, and no one person, department, or cute little compost bin can do it alone. Last week, the Board of Selectmen voted to create an official **Sustainability Committee**, and we are looking for residents with sustainability expertise and enthusiasm to help lead it.

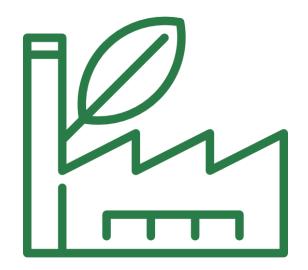
The goal of the Sustainability Committee is to provide leadership and practical solutions in reducing costs, mitigating environmental impacts and preparing for future environmental challenges. We are looking for individuals with experience in environmental education, corporate responsibility, energy efficiency, renewable energy, LEED certification, waste management, and other fields to help spearhead this new group.

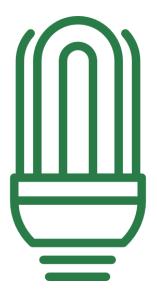
If you're interested in learning more and serving as a Sustainability Committee member, please apply here. Applications are due 9/14/16.

In the meantime, this month's newsletter features a list of some of the challenges and opportunities we hope a Sustainability Committee will help tackle. Check 'em out.

Set a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal

If you follow the carbon, you follow the money. We're working to follow Natick's carbon and recently completed a FY 2015 emissions inventory. This data will provide a useful comparison against 2004 and 2007 measurements, and will serve as the basis for a community-wide emissions analysis. We would love to work with Committee volunteers to set a GHG reduction goal and develop reduction strategies.





Further Energy Efficiency

The Town has made great strides in reducing our total energy use, but we can do more - and save more. Lighting retrofits and system upgrades have cut usage by more than 20% since 2008 (yay!). However, weather-adjusted data indicates that, in some instances, our operations may be less efficient. We'd like to partner with Committee members to identify specific areas of opportunity for investments, operational improvements, and more.

Foster Low Impact Development

Municipal operations are just a small piece of our community's sustainability puzzle. How can we take an environmentally-friendly approach to land development? We're looking for volunteers to collaborate with key stakeholders to develop recommendations on Low impact development, green infrastructure and sustainable site design.





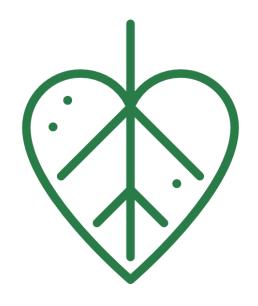
Reduce Waste

Our <u>curbside composting pilot</u> is an exciting and creative solution to repurposing food waste, but that's only 20% or so of municipal trash. What options do we have to reduce our waste even further? We will look to members of the Sustainability Committee to provide valuable insights on cost-effective next steps.

Engage the Community

Real change will come from you - the people, which means we need volunteers to help develop programs that improve the sustainability performance of Natick homes and businesses.

Solarize Mass Natick is a great example of the type of campaign the Committee might lead. (Shameless plug: Solarize recently surpassed its 100 installs goal and is looking for a nonprofit to



receive a free solar array. If you know a local organization that would benefit from solar, tell them to apply here.)

So whattya say? Do you want to get your hands dirty?

We hope you'll consider joining the Natick Sustainability Committee or volunteering with us in some capacity. Please apply by September 14!

Remember, Natick needs you!

Psst: Town Committees aren't your thing? Here's another opportunity to make a difference:

The Sierra Club asked me to ask you... if you're interested in carbon pricing. The Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future, a statewide coalition of groups working to enact a price on carbon for Massachusetts, is looking for volunteers to start ASAP. To learn about this volunteer opportunity, or to be kept in the loop about the carbon pricing initiative, contact Mel Whitehouse at mel.whitehouse@icloud.com. Not sure what carbon pricing is? Visit the Massachusetts Sierra Club website to learn more.



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You are receiving this email because you've expressed an interest in the Town of Natick's sustainability initiatives. Thank you for your leadership in our community!

Our mailing address is: Town of Natick 75 West Street Natick, MA 01760

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